

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 /086 W

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R 302100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5737

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 0571

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GT

SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT ON MFM POSTPONEMENT

REF: STATE 021494

1. FONMIN MOLINA QUOTED IN JANUARY 29 IMPARCIAL AS SAYING THAT GUATEMALA CONSIDERED POSTPONEMENT OF MFM "CONVENIENT" IN VIEW OF FACT THAT "FOUR OF THE IMPORTANT COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA HAD ANNOUNCED THEIR NONATTENDANCE," ALTHOUGH GUATEMALA STILL WOULD HAVE ATTENDED THE MFM HAD IT BEEN HELD.

2. MOLINA ADDED THAT INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO AMEND TRADE ACT "MAKES ONE SEE THE PANORAMA WITH GREATER OPTIMISM." MOLINA STRESSED THAT GUATEMALA WOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN APRIL BEFORE TAKING POSITION RESCHEDULING OF THE MFM.

3. VICE FONMIN OBIOLS QUOTED IN JANUARY 30 GRAFICO AS
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SAYING THAT "CLIMATE WAS NOT PROPITIOUS" FOR MFM. HE

ADDED THAT TRADE ACT IS "ACCURATELY CONSIDERED TO BE DISCRIMINATORY FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THIS LAW, FAR FROM PERMITTING CORDIAL DIALOGUE, COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS AND COOLING OF RELATIONS (DISTANCIAMIENTOS)."

4. DECISION TO POSTPONE MFM WAS GENERALLY INTERPRETED BY THE PRESS AS BEING A SETBACK FOR THE NEW DIALOGUE. GRAFICO PRINTED A SHORT, SARCASTIC EDITORIAL JANUARY 30 SAYING THAT BELATED FONMIN COMMENT ON THE MFM CAME AT A TIME WHEN "ALL THE OTHER COUNTRIES HAD SPOKEN" AND THEREFORE "A DECLARATION BY GUATEMALA HAS NO EFFECT AND INTERESTS NO ONE." THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS "UNFORTUNATE THAT WE STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT, IN 1975, IT IS POSSIBLE TO SPEAK FREELY, EVEN IF THAT OPINION BOTHERS THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH, AND THAT THIS OPINION CAN PRODUCE RESULTS, AS IN THE CASE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LAW, WHICH ALREADY IS BEING REVISED BY THE CONGRESS OF THAT COUNTRY."

5. FACT THAT CONGRESS NOT IN SESSION DURING MOST OF THE PERIOD WHEN DEBATE WAS HOTTEST ON TRADE ACT REDUCED VOLUME OF GUATEMALAN REACTION. PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS LOPEZ ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED COPY OF TRADE ACT, BUT HE DECLINED COMMENT TO PRESS PENDING TRANSLATION OF ACT.
MELOY

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